

PCB Working Group to review and further develop the Results and Accountability Framework of the 2016-2021 UBRAF

At its 37th meeting 26-28 October, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) approved the 2016-2021 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), taking into account the views expressed by the Board. The PCB also recalled decision point 7.2 of the 36th meeting of the PCB – establishing a Working Group on the UBRAF – and noted that it *'looks forward to the presentation of a revised Results and Accountability Framework for approval at the 38th meeting of the Programme Coordinated Board'*.

Meeting 14-15 December 2015, Geneva Note for the Record

Following a webinar on 27 November, a face-to-face meeting of the PCB Working Group on the UBRAF took place on 14 and 15 December in Geneva. Four technical experts nominated by member states, two technical experts nominated by the PCB NGO delegation and three Cosponsor representatives in addition to UNAIDS Secretariat staff participated in the meeting (see list of participants in the annex).

The meeting was very productive with discussion focusing on 1. ways of improving the structure and presentation of the UBRAF, as well as reporting on the UBRAF, and; 2. ways of refining the indicators in the UBRAF. The Working Group agreed that considerable progress had been made since the 2016-2021 UBRAF was approved by the PCB at the end of October 2015 and that additional work was needed by the Group to be able to meet the expectations of a more detailed and prioritised UBRAF to be presented to the 38th PCB in June 2016.

The Working Group therefore agreed to continue working virtually and electronically through January and February 2016 and meet for a second face-to-face at the beginning of March 2016 to agree on a more detailed and prioritised UBRAF to be finalized in March-April, and presented to the 38th PCB in June 2016.

Summary of discussions and recommendations on a more detailed and prioritised UBRAF

The Working Group reviewed Part I and Part II of the 2016-2021 UBRAF and discussed options for a revised and more detailed UBRAF.

Consensus was reached on adding the following to the current 2016-2021 UBRAF document:

- boundaries and limitations of the UBRAF - *what the UBRAF is and what is not;*
- an explanation on how the UBRAF is used - *e.g., for prioritisation and work planning;*
- principles for resource allocation and staff deployment.

Proposals were made on ways to restructure the UBRAF document, for instance, by giving more prominence to the current Annex with outputs and output descriptions. Additional suggestions from members of the Working Group include the following:

- Make the roles of the Secretariat and Cosponsors more explicit, including global roles and the work of the Joint Programme in different regions;
- Further articulate the Theory of Change that underlines expected results/outputs;
- Review financial tables in order to retain only essential information and move some of the more detailed figures in Annexes or possibly the Web Portal;
- Add information about the allocation of resources and improve reporting on resources spent at country level to strengthen accountability;
- Provide more clarity on non-core resources and linkages to Secretariat and Cosponsors work plans;
- Explore options for differentiated reporting formats, i.e., different kinds of reporting serving different purposes;
- Consider ways of bringing a more rigorous external perspective in the UBRAF, e.g., a Technical Review Panel; and strengthen the Evaluation function of the Joint Programme.

Summary of discussions and recommendations on UBRAF indicators

A number of UBRAF indicators were assessed for validity and reliability, and concrete indicators and measurement methods proposed. In particular, the analysis of indicators focused on the following:

- if the outputs relate well to the result areas in the Strategy;
- if the indicators are appropriate proxy measures for the outputs;
- if the indicators measure elements that are plausible results of the work of the Joint Programme at country level (attributable to the work of the Joint Programme, at least by proxy).

The Working Group recommended prioritizing measurement questions under each indicator and to limit them to the extent possible. Questions should be specific: easy to answer with: *Yes/No* or *Not Relevant*. The indicators should be considered as met only if answers to all questions under the indicators are a *Yes* (excluding the cases of non-relevance). This approach is meant to avoid scoring formulas that are difficult to interpret, and to improve data quality assurance.

Summary of next steps

Actions	Time line
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional details and options of presenting the UBRAF and reporting to be shared with Working Group members by UNAIDS Secretariat ● Working Group refine indicators (including measurement questions and interpretation) through electronic exchanges ● UNAIDS Secretariat to share the revised set of indicators for review and feedback 	By end January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working Group to consider options of presenting the UBRAF and reporting on the UBRAF ● Working Group to finalise the indicator review 	By end February 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second face- to-face meeting of the Working Group to (1) agree on the structure and presentation of a more detailed and prioritised UBRAF and (2) validate the full set of UBRAF indicators 	By early March 2016

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors to complete the development of a more detailed and prioritised UBRAF ● UNAIDS Secretariat to coordinate testing of indicators; collection of baselines and setting of milestones and targets 	By end March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalisation of UBRAF 2016-2021 documents for the 38th PCB (with additional review and/or inputs from the Working Group by email or webinars, as necessary) 	By mid April 2016

ANNEX

List of participants

Independent experts nominated by member states

Dr. Brigitte Jordan-Harder (Germany): Dr. Jordan-Harder is a physician with background in international public health, communicable diseases control and sexual and reproductive health with emphasis on HIV and AIDS. Her qualifications include, among others: programming, implementation and monitoring of HIV prevention, care and treatment and sexual and reproductive health programmes; support to multi sectoral responses to HIV; policy and strategy development; programme planning, evaluation and review; design and management of results oriented monitoring systems. In addition, she has experience as a member of past advisory groups related to UBRAF monitoring systems and good knowledge of UN organizations.

Mr. Stein Erik Kruse (Norway): Mr. Kruse is a Senior Consultant with the Nordic Consulting Group. He has experience of programme evaluations, design of M&E systems, project and programme development and sector/ country programming, organisational development and research, including with multilateral organizations and on public health. Mr. Kruse reviewed the 2012-15 UBRAF and his recommendations contributed to the development of the 2016-21 UBRAF.

Dr Juliana Givisiez (Brazil): Dr Givisiez is an epidemiologist with background in public health for over ten years. She has been working in the Department of STIs, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis in Brazil since 2009, most of that period in the Monitoring & Evaluation team. Her main activities were focused on strategic information, especially the development and monitoring of indicators and projects and the elaboration of national and international reports. She has recently been assigned as the coordinator of the Department's International Cooperation.

Mr. Raymond Yekeye (Zimbabwe): Mr. Yekeye is Programme Director at the National AIDS Council in Zimbabwe. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the Indicators Working Group of MERG (Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group) since its establishment. He has a solid background and country experience in monitoring and evaluation as well as on programmatic HIV issues from the East and Southern Africa region. Currently he is also the chair of the organizing committee of the 2015 International AIDS Conference for Africa (ICASA).

Technical experts nominated by the PCB NGO delegation

Ms. Luisa Orza (ATHENA network). Luisa Orza is Programmes Director for the ATHENA Network as well as a Salamander Trust Associate, and STOPAIDS Trustee. Prior to this, she was M&E Officer for ICW from 2004 - 2009. Over the past ten years Luisa's work has focused primarily on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV; strengthening the leadership and participation of women living with HIV, including young women living with and most affected by HIV; and on preventing and addressing violence against women in the context of and response to HIV.

Dr. Michael Arnold (Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities). Dr. Arnold is a researcher with over 15 years of experience in programme evaluation, behavioral and psychosocial health research, and social policy analysis. Research topics include the influence of programme, policy, and environmental factors on the well-being of marginalized and disadvantaged groups. His experience with qualitative methods and using data to promote social justice is particularly relevant to the working group.

Cosponsor Representatives

Mr. Chris Castle, Chief of Section, Division for Teaching, Learning and Content, Education Sector, UNESCO

Ms. Adriana Stahmer, Division for Teaching, Learning and Content, Education Sector, UNESCO

Mr. Kerry A. Kutch, HIV Department, WHO

Representatives of UNAIDS Secretariat

Mr. Vinay Saldanha, Director, Regional Support Team, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Ms. Mary Mahy, Chief, Strategic Information and Monitoring

Secretariat of the Working Group

Mr. Joel Rehnstrom, Director, Planning, Finance and Accountability

Mr. Morten Ussing, Chief, Governance and Multilateral Affairs

Ms. Elisabetta Pegurri, Senior Adviser, Planning, Finance and Accountability

Ms. Abigail David, Senior Planning and Monitoring Adviser